

Highway 104 at Antigonish

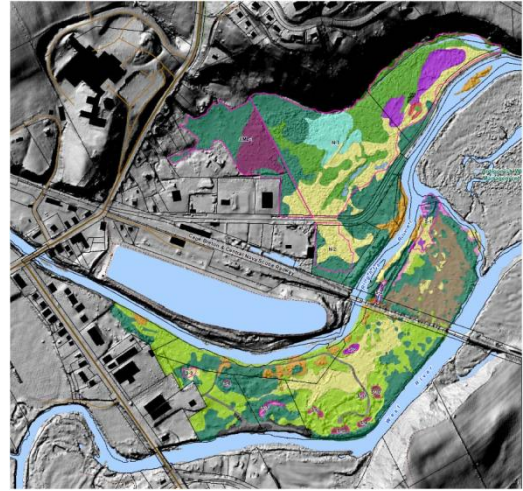
WETLANDS

Why is wetland compensation necessary?

Nova Scotia has a “no net loss” policy regarding wetlands. Due to the foreseen disturbance of wetlands in the twinning of Highway 104, the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) has plans to create, restore and enhance wetlands near the Antigonish Landing.

What is the plan?

- NSTIR has purchased 8 properties for habitat protection, restoration and enhancement, as well as community flood protection, education and recreation.
- NSTIR has worked with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and a local NGO, Habitat Unlimited of Antigonish, to armour the banks of the West River in order to restore fish and wetland habitat, and protect the community from future flood damage.
- NSTIR has partnered with the NS Agricultural College (NSAC) to develop a 6-year research programme to assess and control invasive alien plants, in particular Japanese and Bohemian Knotweed that infest the site and the adjacent Antigonish Wildlife Management Area.
- Based on new surveys of the existing wetlands and adjacent habitats, evaluations of wetland functions, and input from government agencies and the public, NSTIR’s wetland consultants, led by CBCL Limited, are developing detailed plans to create approximately 3 hectares of new wetland on the southern portion of the site, and restore/enhance the wetland functions of 10 hectares of damaged wetlands on the northern portion.
- Detailed plans also include a new interpretive walking trail to promote wetland education and conservation, and a long-term wetland monitoring programme.



- Once the plans are approved by government agencies, NSTIR and its contractors will begin the necessary earthwork, wetland and trail construction, culvert installations, and riparian plantings.

North Site

The proposed compensation includes creating shallow open-water habitat and restoring tidal flushing to the wetland complex. Creation of shallow open-water habitat within the wetland complex is intended to increase the ecological integrity of the site and provide more habitat for waterfowl.

South Site

This site is bisected by the Cape Breton & Central Nova Scotia Railway. Wetland compensation here will be achieved through making connections between a number of small, fragmented, and isolated wetlands. Also, approximately 0.8 km of walking trail will be created.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact:

Bob Pett, Ph.D.

NSTIR, 1672 Granville St., Halifax, NS, B3J 2N2

Phone: (902) 424-4082;

E-mail: pettrj@gov.ns.ca

You can also visit the Community Liaison Committee website at: www.104antigonish.ca